

## CLAIM LISTING

1. (Currently Amended) A method for arbitrating access by a scheduling apparatus that provides an interface between a memory and at least two devices, the scheduling apparatus including a memory request arbiter configured to control access to the memory, wherein the memory request arbiter arbitrates access to the memory for different devices having different priorities, at least two counters coupled to the memory request arbiter, wherein each counter is associated with at least a first particular device of the at least two devices, and wherein at least one of the at least two counters is configured to produce various time-periods, wherein during such time-periods the arbiter prevents the first device from accessing the memory, wherein the scheduling apparatus provides scheduling of tasks, at least one of the tasks not inherently having a pre-determined periodic behavior, and wherein the scheduling apparatus is capable of arbitrating access to at least one device that is sensitive to latency, the method comprising:

producing at least one time signal, the at least one time-signal defining a time-period by a particular one of the at least two counters; and

selectively preventing the first device associated with the particular one of the at least two counters from accessing the memory during the time-period.

2. (Currently Amended) A method for arbitrating access by a scheduling apparatus that provides an interface between a memory and at least two devices, the scheduling apparatus including a memory request arbiter configured to

control access to the memory, wherein the memory request arbiter arbitrates access to the memory for different devices having different priorities, at least two counters coupled to the memory request arbiter, wherein each counter is associated with at least a first device of the at least two devices, and wherein at least one of the at least two counters is configured to produce various time-periods, wherein during such time-periods the arbiter prevents higher priority devices from accessing the memory, wherein the scheduling apparatus provides scheduling of tasks, at least one of the tasks not inherently having a pre-determined periodic behavior, and wherein the scheduling apparatus is capable of arbitrating access to at least one device that is sensitive to latency, the method comprising:

producing at least one time signal, the at least one time-signal defining a time-period by a particular one of the at least two counters; and

selectively preventing a higher priority device[s] associated with the particular one of the at least two counters from accessing the memory during the time-period.

3. (Cancelled).